

Important Notice to All Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers:

- **If a foster child or relative child placed in your care is diagnosed with whooping cough – contact the child’s social worker immediately.**
- **Foster parents should contact their licensor to issue a Stop Placement, if anyone in their home is diagnosed with whooping cough, until the period of contagion has passed.**

On Thursday, May 3rd, Governor Gregoire announced Washington has declared the outbreak of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) an epidemic, with more than 1,100 cases reported in the state so far. The Governor is urging health care professionals to get vaccinated and vaccinate their patients. “I’ve been following the epidemic closely and the continued increase in cases has me very concerned about the health of our residents,” Gregoire said. “I’m especially concerned about the vulnerable babies in our communities that are too young to be fully immunized.”

“Pertussis is very serious, especially for babies. It’s vital that teens and adults are current on their immunizations because they’re often the ones who give whooping cough to babies. We’re headed for unprecedented numbers of cases. We’ve got to keep spreading the word to help prevent the spread of illness,” stated Gregoire.

Children’s Administration is encouraging everyone who is old enough to obtain the vaccination and to update their immunizations.

Whooping cough vaccines are recommended for all kids and adults. Kids under seven should get a series of five [DTaP](#) vaccines. Kids aged 7 to 10 years who aren’t fully vaccinated against whooping cough and everyone aged 11 and older should get a whooping cough booster, called [Tdap](#).

Get whooping cough vaccine from:

- Your healthcare provider
- Most pharmacies
- Clinics
- [Your local health department](#)

If you need information on health insurance or help finding a healthcare provider, call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 or visit www.parenthelp123.org.